



Earth First!

Action Update

Feb '96
No 24

30p

JEREMY CLARKSON HAT'R IESU!

NEWBURY NEEDS YOU!

After years of legal campaigning against the Newbury Bypass, the real struggle kicked off on Tuesday 3rd of January. Tripods placed over night, blocked Reliance Security's access from their encampment: without them contractors Mott McDonalds and Blackwell couldn't 'work'. We took the initiative, went to meet them and won the day. Week 1 was similarly successful (for us!). Though trees and undergrowth were lost, our actions lessened damage. Friday 5th escalated as the pigs waded in with 35 CJA arrests allowing 'clearance'. As week 2 got heavier, our tactics were effective. Monday's increased security and mobile chainsaw crews saw simultaneous hits on different areas on the proposed 9 mile route. People reacted and stopped the felling nearest them. Our high numbers gave us control of the ground.

More Reliance Security thugs were hired, combining with cop co-operation, road blocks, harassment and mass CJA arrests. Activists stuck it out through freezing conditions. Tactics have changed with the situation. Less numbers on the ground makes tree occupation vital to prevent felling. Laws are used by us: occupied land is legally squatted under section 12: forcing the enemy to apply for possession orders before trying to trash them. Tree defences go up around the clock (thanks to head torches) - the smallest coppice becomes a full on eviction as new sites mushroom.

The DoT despite having possession orders on six sites, have bottled from evictions, though rumours of scab climbers from Stanworth and Brynhenllys fly. But evictions are imminent. Meanwhile felling goes on close to and on sites, cutting onto occupied walkways and unoccupied tree houses. Ground benders, with peoples possessions, have been trashed. The state's violence level has increased with their desperation.

As well as the defensive action and fortification, every morning, we take the fight to them. Actions and blockades disrupt their work, companies are hit to make them regret taking us on.

The last four years almost seem a rehearsal. People and skills acquired since Twyford are now coming through. As our resistance has captured the national imagination, the state is taking on the Environmental Direct Action Movement to try and break us. This is obvious by Fuzz behaviour - CJA arrests have passed 300, the 300th was 'while operating as the rear end of a Pantomime Cow', outrageous bail conditions are enforced and safety



regulations flaunted. This battle is against more than roads: were taking on the CJA, the scum that drafted it and those that enforce it. This will not end the war, but is an important moment within it. There is a Rally & Route Walk on Sunday 11th Feb. The next day is a Mass Direct Action on the site. If you can't get to Newbury, please take action where you live: organise solidarity actions, fly post, provide transport, raise money, scavenge for stuff. If we come together we can win! Contact: 01635 45544 or 01635 550552 (24hr Info Line).

SELAR ON ALERT

The tree village at Selar Farm Nature Reserve - South Wales - continues to thwart the proposed 880 acre opencast mine. With 17 acres of Oak Woodland walkways and tree houses, Celtic Energy must evict to start work.

January 29th saw an illegal 48hr's eviction notice served, but this was a false alarm. Tip Off's and enemy activity, plus workers hired from March 1st - St David's day - indicate imminent eviction. Equipment and people needed now.

If you're nicked at Newbury, get bailed to Selar for a welcome in the hillside! Eviction Hotline (not site number): 01639 720884. Please get there!

The proposed opencast at Swiss Valley (Llanelli), and near Blaenau Ffestiniog have been turned down; and the site at Tir Dafydd is at public enquiry.

ASHTON COURT QUARRY SHUT DOWN

Ashton Court Estate - the site of Ashton Court Free Festival - is a large park with woodland on the outskirts of Bristol. Durnford Quarry is located in the corner of the park. In early 95 Pioneer Aggregates put in an application to extend the quarry by 34 acres into the park. This would destroy grassland, wildlife and woodland.

The park was given over to the people of Bristol as a public open space. Pioneer have withdrawn their application for 34 acres after massive public opposition. They have now put in an application to extend the quarry by 21 acres. This means they will be running on a lower profit margin and be more vulnerable to protest. Avon County Council will decide whether to give permission this month.

Avon Gorge EF! have two actions against the proposed extension. On Feb. 3rd there will be a procession through Bristol city centre, and on Monday Feb. 19th there will be a massive direct action to shut the quarry. Meet midday at the Clifton Gate entrance to Ashton Court Estate, on the Rownham Hill Road, after the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Bring waterproofs, warm clothing, banners, locks, food and water. There will be a briefing before the action - be on time! Contact 01225 448 556.

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News In Brief

The Homeless Information Project offers a range of information on homelessness, squatting and self help groups. Contact H.I.P. 612 Old Kent Road, London, SE15 1JB. Phone 0171 277 7639.

Manchester's Networking Newsletter is now produced bimonthly and provides information on campaigning in and around Manchester. Contact: Network Newsletter, One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

Basic Law for Road Protesters is a legal text book for anyone opposing a road scheme at any stage, from public enquiry to digger diving. Free by Email or Disk, or £10 on paper from: Peter Gray, 284 Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1HQ or Email 'pgray@gn.apc.org'

A team of economists working for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are calculating the 'costs and benefits' of global warming. Using some surreal calculations they have stated that a US citizen is worth \$1,500,000, but a Chinese is only worth \$100,000! Further info: 0171 706 3681.

The Party Posse of Wolves raised £1400 for the campaign against the Newbury Bypass.

The trial of 18 protesters, accused of aggravated trespass, after a protest at Garforth open cast mine West Yorkshire, has been moved to April 29th. It is expected to last 2 weeks. Contact 0113 2629365.

Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, was jailed for 30 days during an attempt to stop illegal fishing of North Atlantic Cod. The Sea Shepherd crew doused the decks of the trawler with a foul smelling stink bomb, forcing the ship to halt it's fishing activities.

The BBC has decided not to allow high profile Indian environmental campaigner, Vandana Shiva to speak on Radio 4. The interview was cancelled after concerns that her outspoken opposition to fast food chains in India may result in a libel case being brought against the BBC. A Kentucky Fried Chicken Store in India was burnt to the ground in Bangalore by farmers.

A German Court in the city of Kassel has ruled that McDonalds have to pay an anti rubbish tax. McDonalds have said this will take 80% of their profits and are threatening to close down!

South Wales Walk Against Roads Mania: On May 3rd, walkers and cyclists will be travelling for five days through Wales. 01222 229577

Cardiff EF! managed 3 actions against the Newbury Bypass on Jan. 26th. Having invaded the site of the Cardiff Bay Barrage, they informed Costain's chief engineer they were looking for appropriate sites for people bailed off the Newbury route. They then occupied Costain's offices 3 miles away, only to find Mott McDonald's were next door!

The producers of Undercurrents have expanded, forming a new company called Undercurrents Productions. They have a new office and have changed address (see listings).

The Crown Prosecution Service are appealing to the High Court to establish whether the assembly of people at Stonehenge, on the 10th anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield, was a criminal act under the CJA.

GET YOUR KICKS ON M66!

An eviction notice has been served on the Daisy Nook camp on the route of the £290 million M66 extension. Meetings have taken place between the sheriff and the police discussing tactics. People at the camp are expecting the eviction to begin on Monday, February 5th. Tree houses, walkways and towers have been erected. People are needed in the trees and on the ground. If you haven't visited the camps, get there for the many preparations and be there when it kicks off. Experienced climbers needed for more defence work: 0161 627 4862, 0161 628 4727.

ROMONA AFRICA IN BRITAIN

Romona Africa, the only adult survivor of the 1985 FBI Bombing of the MOVE commune in Philadelphia is coming to Britain in February. MOVE were a radical ecology group set up by Black Philadelphians in 1971. They were persecuted by the authorities after protesting against police racism, animal abuse and environmental destruction. Events culminated when, in a joint FBI and police, operation a bomb was dropped on their home. Police fired 10,000 rounds of ammunition as people tried to leave the burning building. Romona was seriously burnt in the massacre. For surviving she was arrested for assault and sentenced to 7 years in prison for 'riot'.

She will be speaking in London about Mumia Abu-Jamal and other MOVE prisoners on Saturday 10th of February at the Ventura Community Centre, Wornington road, Ladbroke Grove. 0171 2725368. Further info: Friends of MOVE, PO BOX 3069, London, SW9 8LU. 0181 519 9228

"(we) realise for the local authorities to go after 11 people, 5 of them children, was a kind of viciousness and force usually reserved for war. What they were trying to kill was more than the human beings involved, it had to be a spirit, an idea." - Alice Walker

ANNESLEY ROAD

Annesley, near Nottingham, saw it's first direct action on Saturday the 20th of January, when a small but determined group of activists stopped work on the route of the M1 Link road. The road is part of a huge development which will annihilate an ancient woodland and the surrounding countryside. Work came to a halt when a mixture of EF!er's & local people scrambled onto anything that moved. This promises to be the first action in a long campaign. Local people are fervently against the scheme and have set up two protest groups. Info. 0115 958 5666. Stop Press: Clearance work on the ancient woodland has just started (31/1) and activists are stopping work. People desperately needed.

BANKRUPT SHELL

Delta has been established as an information exchange for people concerned about Shell's activities in Nigeria and particularly the plight of the Ogoni people. For a copy of their newsletter contact DELTA, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes St, Oxford, OX4 1DD. 01865 791391. Meanwhile, Shell have admitted to buying guns for the Nigerian police. These are believed to have supplied the 'Kill and Go Squad' which killed 15 protesters in 1990. It has also emerged that 55,000 people are in jail awaiting trial in Nigeria. Some have been waiting more than a decade. Shell's money supports the Nigerian government - It's time to bankrupt 'em.



Ashton Court Quarry - Feb 19th

HOLTSFIELD

Residents of Holtsfield, a community of low impact homes near Swansea are still expecting immanent eviction. The land owner - Tim Jones - has bought the land on which the homes are built. There are various court cases going on contesting the rights of ownership. For further information contact 01792 234027.

WELLS 'RELIEF' ROAD

9 people have been found guilty of aggravated trespass under the CJA, for obstructing work on the road. 8 were fined £150 despite the statement of a security guard that they were sharing a bottle of coke with the digger driver. The other protester, Bob from South Somerset EF! was put on bail and is due to appear in Frome Magistrates Court for reports and sentencing on 16th February at 9.15am. Please turn up in support. 01935 825074.

WHATLEY COURT CASES

On the 10th and 17th of January court hearings were held for people arrested under the CJA at the Whatley Quarry Action on the 4th December. Around 50 people attended. They all pleaded 'not guilty'. On Thursday 1st February, solicitors and police will view videos of the events, set trial dates and batch the defendants. A few activists have been charged with criminal damage & assault - contact Justice? for details 01273 685913.

The impact of the Whatley action was summed up by Construction News, "The high-profile raid by environmental activists at Whatley Quarry will send shivers down the spine of most in the construction industry. ... The lesson learnt from the roads protests is that it is folly to dismiss the claims of the environmentalists as ill-informed claptrap".

A lot of property was left behind at the Whatley camp. If you have lost anything contact: 01749 880326.

How to Contact Earth First! Action Update

By phone: 01222 383363; by post: Action Update, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX; by fax: 01222 640666; or finally by email to 'actionupdate@gn.apc.org'. The deadline for the next issue is the 20th of February. Note that the contact address will change after February. For replies please enclose a SAE. Send subscriptions/requests for bulk copies/ distribution enquiries to Dead Trees EF! To subscribe to the free e-mail server give us your details. Please send us a donation or stamps if you can afford it (we rely on getting at least £50 a month in donations to be able to send free subscriptions to community groups etc.).

A30

Security has been appointed for work on the A30. Those bods in yellow jackets have been spotted around the site. Building and other positive production around the camps merrily continues. The contract for the clearance work will be awarded in the Spring. 01404 815729 for directions.

THANET WAY

The court cases and protests against the A299 work site continue. The road is 11 weeks behind schedule. Kent Council estimate security costs over the 3 year contract will stand at £4m. Contact The Flat Oak Society: 01227 463368.

THE POLICE FORWARD 'INTELLIGENCE' UNIT

Arising from the near total failure of the Police to control the Oct. '94 Hyde Park demo, the Police have set up the 'Forward Intelligence Unit'. The 12 strong team can now be seen on every sizable action around the country. They aim to build a 'rapport with (key) activists so that people likely to provoke disorder can be identified early in an event'. The aim of this is to split the direct action movement from within. They are relying on people talking to them or simply grassing other activists up.

They have already approached EF!er's in London asking for names of 'potential troublemakers'. At the Whatley demo they were offering sizable amounts of cash to photographers for their films. Don't get paranoid but get sensible - don't talk to cops, don't take pictures without asking first and if you're arrested on any action say 'no comment'!!

COALITION AGAINST RUNWAY 2, AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT

The first meeting of Manchester's Anti-Runway 2 group, an alliance against the construction of the airport's second runway, was held in November. If construction on the runway goes ahead, 700 acres of open countryside and woodland will be trashed. The proposed second runway would create 30 million extra car journeys per year, requiring the construction of another 120 miles of motorway.

There will be a conference in Manchester early this year to which all groups are welcome. A direct action pledge is being compiled, for more info contact: 141 Hamilton Rd, Longsight, Manchester M13. 0161 998 1888.

ROAD ALERT!

The office of Road Alert!, the networking centre for direct action against road building has closed. After several years, they are scaling down and are encouraging other groups to take on where they left off - be it regional networks or concentrating on specific issues. They can still be contacted by post or Email, and they are planning to finish editing the new edition of "The Complete Anti-Roads Protester" along with several other briefing sheets. Cheers Road Alert! We wouldn't be here without you ... we love ya!

THE LAND IS OURS

A major occupation of urban derelict land is scheduled soon, by the Land is Ours, to draw attention to the way such places are being wasted by government and big business.

An occupation of the Earl of Macclesfield's land, resulted in Oxfordshire County Council asking the Earl to agree to access provisions.

The results of the 'Best & Worst Landowner in Britain' have just been announced: Daphne Buxton has been voted Britain's Best Landowner for creating the first Common this century.

The Land is Ours produce a range of publications and welcome any offers of help. 01865 722016

ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

Online Campaigns is a new computer bulletin board, dedicated to networking campaigns. Contact 0161 273 8338 or 'online@onlincam.nildram.co.uk'. The Action Update is available on WWW at 'http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/~rhouston/index/index.cgi'.

CAR WORSHIP

The Motor Industry held a service for 1,000 people in Coventry Cathedral, to celebrate one hundred years of the Motor Car. In the spirit of Lady Godiva, a woman took off her coat in front of the congregation revealing her naked body painted with slogans mourning the death of 17 million people killed directly by the Motor Car. This brought the service to a standstill for 4 minutes while she preached to the Car Worshipers!

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Imports of live cattle from Canada are believed to be starting at Avonmouth Port, Bristol.

The International Whaling Commission are meeting in Aberdeen between June 24th - 29th. Protests are planned, as the moratorium on commercial whaling may be overturned in the next 2 years.

On the 10th of January, three more Hunt Sabs were acquitted of aggravated trespass under the Criminal Justice Act at Leicester Court. This legislation has proven totally ineffective at stopping anti hunt protests.

GREEN PARTY

The Green Party Spring Conference is at Dover Town Hall from the 21st - 25th of February. There will be a live export action on the Friday. Further Info: Jill Harvey 0121 453 5838.

The Green Party is also backing 'ECOTRIP' a mobile DIY culture, environmental awareness and skills raising caravan. Over the summer it will be touring festivals and any events that will provide space for it. Contact: Steve Peake 0181 341 3794.

EARTH FIRST! IN THE USA

Headwaters Forest in Northern California is a primeval redwood wilderness, home to many endangered species including the marbled murrelet. On September 15th, 2,500 people attended a rally protesting against logging in the area. The rally resulted in 264 arrests. After the rally more than 300 activists set up a camp and began 5 weeks of intensive actions.

In Willamette National Forest, Oregon, 9,000 acres of forest are due for logging at Warner Creek. A camp (Cascadia Free State) and barricades have been established on the logging road, preventing logging since September. New recruits to the camp are needed. 2 activists have gone on hunger strike outside Oregon's federal building in Eugene.

For more information on many of the campaigns going in the US contact the Earth First! Journal, PO BOX 1415, Eugene, OR 97440, USA. The Journal would also love to receive any informations on campaigns in the UK.

DIARY DATES

DAILY

Actions all the time against the construction of the Newbury Bypass. 01635 45544

FEBRUARY

10 Sat: Romona Africa speaking at Ventura Community Centre, Ladbroke Grove, London. 0171 272 5368.

11 Sun: Joint Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace rally at Newbury. 0990 224488.

12 Mon: National Day of Action at Newbury. 01635 45544.

14 Wed: Valentines Street Party, Brighton. Meet 12.30, Churchill Square. 01273 685913

16 Fri: Bob, from South Somerset EF! in court at Frome Magistrates Court, 9.15am for CJA sentencing. Support needed. Contact 01935 825074.

19 Mon: Mass Action at Ashton Court. Meet 12pm, Clifton Gate entrance to Ashton Court Estate, after Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol. 01225 448556.

21 - 25: Green Party Spring Conference at Dover Town Hall. Jill Harvey 0121 453 5838.

24 Sat: National demo against the Asylum Bill. Assemble 11am, Emarkment, London. 0171 247 9307.

24 Sat: Wales United Demo for Welsh freedom. Aberystwyth. 2pm, The Prom.

MARCH

9 Sat: Green Left Convergence Public Meeting. Conway Hall, Lion Square, London. 1-5 pm. 01904 672489

9 Sat: Earth First! Publications Meeting, Newbury

16 - 17: Green Student Network Gathering, Cambridge. Contact Hamish Downer 01223 336176.

29 - 31: Sellafield Womens Peace Camp. 01706 371387.

APRIL

1-7: International Earth Nights. The Earth Liberation Fairie's annual April Fools Day 'Bash' - of eco-nasties.

29: Trial begins of Garforth Opencast protesters. 0113 262 9365.

JUNE

12 - 18: Earth First! Summer Gathering



THE EDITORIAL

Firstly, if you're reading this and you've got nothing to do for the next few days, Stop. Put some food, waterproofs and warm clothes in a bag and head for Newbury.

Secondly, the next issue of AU will be the last produced in Cardiff. Every year the compilation of AU is passed on to another group. This is done to maintain new influences, stop burn out of those producing it and to prevent any one group becoming 'Earth First! National HQ'. The hand over is a time for change and growth. We have had several offers to take it on, so we are proposing that some groups take on regional/specialist networking. Reclaim the Streets (London EF!) have offered to take on the AU; Chichester EF! will take on a round up of eco & animal liberation activities called 'Direct Action! Direct'; and A30 Action will produce newsletters covering roads and opencast protests. There will be a meeting to establish a network of EF! publications in Newbury on Sat. March 9th. If you wish to start a publication, have any opinions, or wish to attend please contact the AU in Cardiff. These changes will need to be confirmed at the next gathering. There is talk of an EF! gathering in Newbury over Easter - details to follow. See ya next month, for the last time! Snogs from the AU team.

This issue of AU is dedicated to the people who don't get written about every month: that cook the food; pick people up from Police Stations; and help keep other peoples lives together.



Selar's Last Stand? (photo by Anita)

FREE LEONARD PELTIER!

Leonard Peltier is a Chippewa/Lakota native American who was a leading activist in the American Indian Movement (AIM). In 1975 he was framed for the murder of two FBI agents. Leonard is still doing time. His trial was filled with manufactured evidence, intimidated witnesses and lies. The FBI withheld evidence that proved his innocence, and the prosecutor has since said the government doesn't know who killed the agents. February 6th marks the 20th anniversary of his capture. Leonard's supporters in the USA are organising a day of action on February 6th, targeting the FBI. They are asking supporters to protest at US embassies and consulates. More info: London Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24 0LR. 0171 274 6655. A video on the Peltier Case and the AIM movement can be obtained for £3 from South Downs EF!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENCE OF THE WOLF

Friends of the Wolf (FoW) are campaigning to stop state sponsored murder of wolves in Canada. The Yukon Territorial Government has killed 132 wolves since 1993 and the wolf population has fallen from 200 to 38. Each year 40 wolves are killed. Unless International pressure is put on Canada, there will be no wolves left in the Yukon. FoW are now out stopping the cull using direct action. They use snow mobiles to put themselves between the guns and

the wolves.

On January 23rd, 15 people occupied the Canadian tourist office in London. They called for the Canadian Government to stop the slaughter. Contact FoW via Reclaim the Streets: 0171 281 4621. Nearer home similar wolf culling is taking place in Poland. International activists are needed in April to stop the cull. Contact Avon Gorge EF!

GREEN STUDENTS

The Green Student Network has a new coordinator. If you wish to join the network, or have any information you may wish to include in their newsletter write to: Ed Smith, Pendle College, Lancaster University, Lancaster. LA1 4YN. Email: cmdrs@cent1.lancs.ac.uk.

A gathering will be held from Friday 15th March to the Sunday afternoon, in Cambridge. To offer a workshop or for further details contact: Hamish 01223 336176.

SUPPORT STRIKES

The Liverpool dockers' strike continues. The dockers have a proud record of supporting other peoples' struggles - now they need our help. The company employing scabs to try and break the strike is: Drake International Ltd, Charles House, Regent St. London SW1.

Meanwhile the Department of Social Security strike is growing. Over 40 offices are now engaged in industrial action. If these strikes continue to escalate it could fuck up the

implementation of the Job Seekers Allowance. When the dole office is on strike - you don't need to sign on ... helpful hey?

LEEDS' STREETS RECLAIMED

People in Leeds reclaimed their streets with a big party on 16th December. One of the main city centre streets was blocked off by a sound system and a bouncy castle. The police managed to block off the rest of the city centre including the bus routes by themselves. There were no arrests and more parties are planned. Contact: 0113 262 9365

VALENTINES PARTY, BRIGHTON

A Reclaim the streets party will be happening in Brighton on Wednesday the 14th of February. There will be sound systems and pink fairies courting hippos. Definitely a weird experience ... Meet 12:30pm Churchill Square.

RESIDENTS AGAINST THE M74

The campaign continues against the ten lane M74 in Glasgow. A three day action was planned along the site of the M74 to coincide with the Burns Supper. The community came out to a celidh in the street, with flags and drums. Police came out on their horses, causing greater chaos. As the streets were cleared, people occupied a pedestrian crossing until the power was cut, moving to the next one each time. There have been no arrests throughout the campaign. The mood is positive and empowering. Actions to continue: 0141 424 1797, 0141 550 1745.

PEACE NEWS

Kate Withams' court case for alleged £21,000 damage to a radome at Menwith Hill U.S. Spy Base has been postponed until March/April. Support the defence fund. Cheques to: 'Peace House' at 5 New Road, Littleborough, Lancs, OL15 8PJ. Support needed at the camp. Actions planned for International Womens Day. 01706 371387. Supporters of the Campaign Against The Arms Trade (CAAT) are being sued for libel by COPEX International Ltd, who organise the 'Covert Operational Procurement Exhibition'. They have now issued a writ naming eight people whose names appeared in the CAAT newsletter. A number of people who wrote to the manager at Sandown about COPEX have also been issued with writs. The exhibitors at COPEX include companies supplying riot control, counter insurgency equipment and public order weapons to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka etc. This libel has implications for every campaigning organisation that uses letter writing!! 0171 281 0297.

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